

Application No.: 10/765,494
Amendment Dated: October 6, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of July 6, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-8 and 10-26 are in the application. Claims 1, 8, 14, 21 and 24 are in independent form. Claims 14-20 are allowed. Claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Claims 21-26 are added to more completely claim the invention

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 14-20 and the indication of allowable subject matter.

Objections to the Disclosure

The amendments to the disclosure address the informalities objected to by the Examiner in paragraphs [1017], [1021], [1025], and [1026].

Objections to the Drawings

Fig. 1 is objected to because block 120 states "WHEE LHOUSE." Replacement Fig. 1 states to "WHEEL HOUSE."

Fig. 2 is amended to remove a superfluous right parenthesis from block 218 and to remove a portion of a line that extends into the word "OUT" in box 208.

The Examiner objects to the use of different reference characters in different figures. Applicant uses one set of reference numbers in the general block diagrams of Figs. 1 and 2 and a different set of reference numbers in Figs. 3 through 5 to show that the specific implementations shown in Figs. 3 through 5 are merely examples of the broader descriptions shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and that the general description of Figs. 1 and 2 are not limited to the implementations shown in Figs. 3 through 5

As the specification states in paragraph [1021]:

Figure 2 shows a logical block diagram of a collision avoidance system that is implemented with the system of Figure 1 and with the circuits of Figures 3A-3I described below. (The description of this diagram is a good introduction to the circuits of Figures 3A-3I, which form an overall circuit that substantially performs the functions described with this diagram. However, it should be recognized that there are numerous ways to implement the functions and blocks described herein, and thus, the invention is not so limited.)

Application No.: 10/765,494
Amendment Dated: October 6, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of July 6, 2005

Claim objections

Claim 11 stand objected to because "Optical" should be "optical." Amended claim 11 recites "optical."

Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Claim 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112 for indefiniteness. The Examiner states that the relationship between the various time periods in claim 1 is unclear. Amended claim 1 clarifies the relationship between the time periods.

The Examiner states that the use of the term "externally to the operator" is unclear. Amended claim 5 clarifies that the second alarm is "provided externally to a vehicle operator compartment."

Prior Art Rejection under 35 USC § 102 and § 103

Claim 1, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,611,199 to Seko et al. ("Seko"); U.S. Pat. No. 4,428,969 to Woods ("Woods"); or U.S. Pat. No. 3,106,981 to Chakiris ("Chakiris"). Claims 2-4, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for obviousness over Seko, Woods, or Chakiris in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,012,226 to Love or U.S. Pat. No. 5,714,925 to Lee et al.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "monitoring a rudder control of a ship" and claim 8 is amended to recite "a sensor for monitoring a ship rudder control, the sensor providing a signal indicating when the ship rudder control is adjusted." Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 8 differentiate of the cited references in a manner similar to that of allowed claim 14.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2005

By: 

Michael O. Scheinberg
Pat. Reg. No. 36,919
P.O. Box 164140
Austin, Texas 78716-4140
Telephone: (512) 328-9510
Fax: (512) 306-1963

- 11 -

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

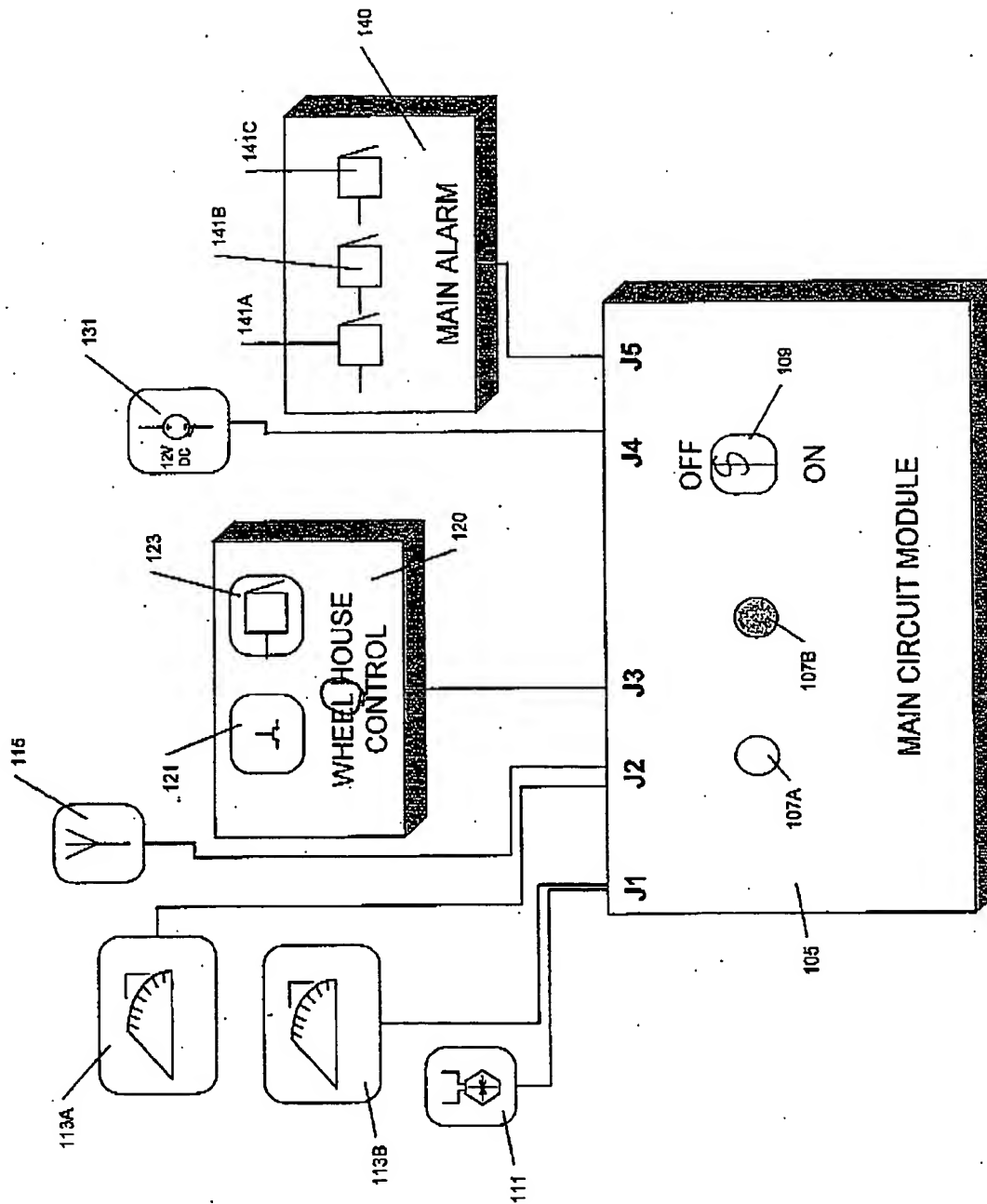


FIGURE 1

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

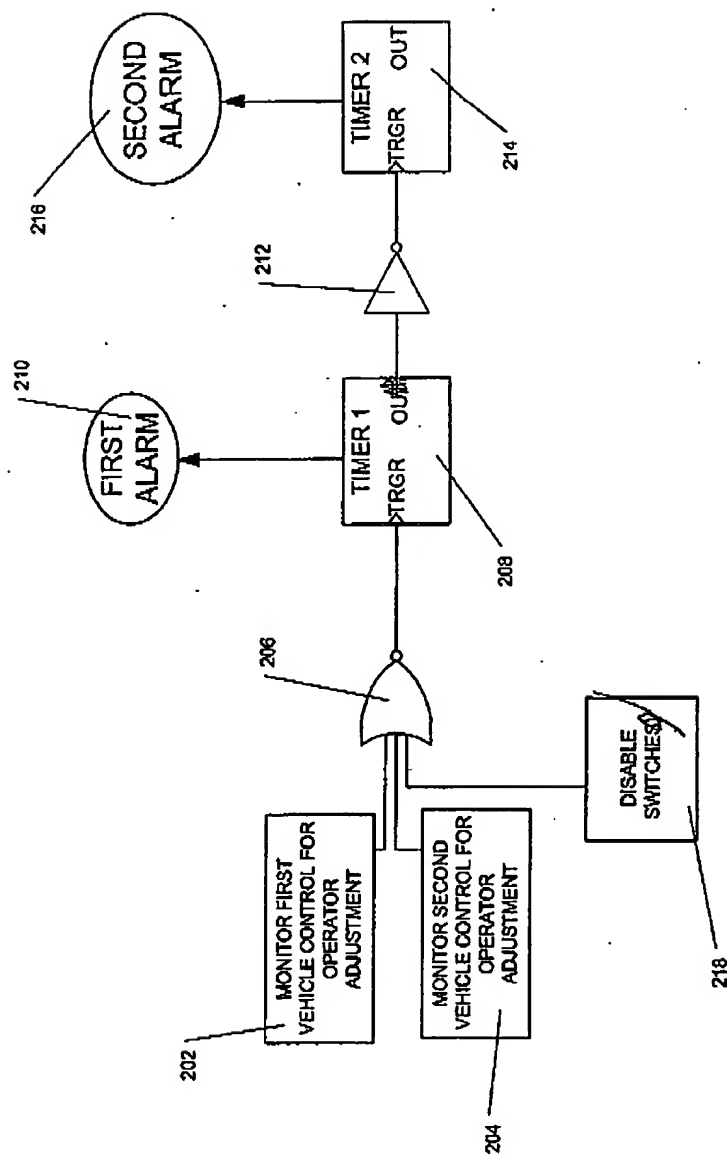


FIGURE 2

BEST AVAILABLE COPY